

10/524,812

**REMARKS**

The present response is submitted in response to the Office Action of November 08, 2005. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the requested new claims and following remarks upon reconsideration of this Application.

In the specification, the abstract of the disclosure is amended to overcome a few noted informalities contained therein.

Claims 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons noted in the official action. The rejected claims are accordingly rewritten by the above new claims 13-17, and the presently pending claims are now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, thereby overcoming all of the raised § 112, second paragraph, rejections.

Claims 5-6, 8-10 and 12 (now claims 13-17) are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Hallberg '019. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory rejection in view of the following remarks.

Different from the shaft-hub connection for a transmission part of the present invention, Hallberg '019 relates to a lavatory soap holder comprising a post member and a socket member wherein the post member and the socket member are interlocked with each other to form the soap holder as a whole. As clearly described in the specification of Hallberg '019, this cited reference consists in forming the post member with only a frictional head 16 adapted to enter and frictionally engage with the socket member (see lines 18-20). The post member has a frictional head 16 and a serrated neck 15 aligned in an axial direction. The socket member has a narrower recess 13, i.e., smaller diameter, than the frictional head 16 to produce the frictional fit. To attain enough friction, the frictional head 16 is vertically divided by a slot 17 and normally expanded so as to be slightly larger than the narrower recess 13 (see lines 31-33). When connected, the frictional head 16 is forced into the narrower recess 13 to provide frictional engagement therebetween and prevent the socket member from being accidentally lifted off from the post member (see lines 39-43).

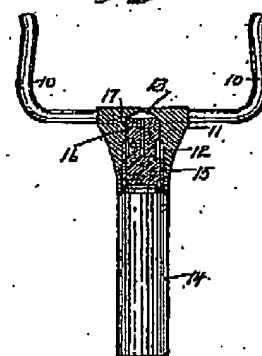
02/08 - 1:15 PM

10/524,812

As the Examiner is aware, in order to support an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) the cited reference must disclose each and every feature of the presently claimed invention. The presently claimed invention relates to a shaft-hub connection comprising one shaft end having three segments, and a hub having a two-step hole to receive the shaft segments. Importantly, the two-step hole of the hub does not have a specific segment conforming with a central toothed segment (B) of the shaft. In order to attain the appropriate rigidity and alignment between the shaft and hub, the central toothed segment (B) of the shaft is forced into the narrower segment of diameter  $d_1$  of the stepped hole to cut a counter profile in the narrower segment.

The type of connection described above where a larger diameter shaft is inserted in a smaller diameter aperture or hole, is also known as an interference or a force fit. Claim 13 specifically recites the feature "wherein the diameter ( $D_1$ ) of the first segment is smaller than the diameter ( $d_2$ ) of the intermediate central toothed segment (B). . . the intermediate central toothed segment (B) is forced into an overlapping axial engagement with the smaller diameter  $D_1$  of the aperture (11). . .". This is certainly not the case in Hallberg '019 where the serrated neck 15 merely slides into the correspondingly serrated chamber 12 ". . . so as to prevent the socket from being rotated". There is no disclosure, teaching or even a suggestion in this reference that the serrated neck 15 would have an diameter larger than the chamber 12 or that the neck 15 would engage with or axially overlap the smaller diameter recess 13.

In other words, as seen in Fig. 2 of Hallberg '019 reproduced herein, only the frictional head 16 enters into the recess 13 with which it frictionally engages, so as to prevent the socket from being accidentally lifted off from the post as described at the top of column 2:



2/7/06 - 1:15 PM

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

10/524,812

In the applied reference there is merely a friction fit caused by the slightly oversized head 16 being inserted into the recess 13. There is no counter profile cut in the recess 13, or a positive interference fit as also specifically recited in claim 13, where the larger diameter toothed segment B is used " . . . to cut a counter profile in the hub and form a positive interference fit between the central toothed segment (B) and first segment of the hub."

As at least the above identified, and specifically claimed features of the present invention are not disclosed, taught or suggested in any manner by the applied reference, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the anticipation rejection.

Claims 7 and 11 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Hallberg '019. As these claims, now rewritten essentially as new claim 16, and also all the remaining dependent claims 14-17 are dependent upon claim 13 which is believed to be allowable in view of the above new claims and remarks, these claims are thus also believed to be allowable.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised anticipation and obviousness rejections should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejections or applicability of the Hallberg '019 reference, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

2/7/06 - 1:10 PM

- 7 -

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

10/524,812

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



Scott A. Daniels, Reg. No. 42,462  
Customer No. 020210  
Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.  
Fourth Floor  
500 North Commercial Street  
Manchester NH 03101-1151  
Telephone 603-624-9220  
Facsimile 603-624-9229  
E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com